IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. An identifier indicating the status of each claim is provided.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of generating sequencing information representing a sequence of items selected in a database, each of the items comprising a set of descriptors, <u>said method</u> comprising the steps of:

[[a)]] specifying a length of said sequence and at least one of said descriptors;

[[b)]] applying similarity relation techniques between said items <u>appearing in said sequence</u>, in which, for at least one item to appear in the sequence, said item is chosen from said database on the basis of a similarity relation with ~~an~~ <u>a neighboring</u> item ~~in~~ <u>of</u> said sequence with which said chosen item shall be associated<u>, so as to create a morphological continuity along said sequence</u>; and

[[c)]] producing said associated items as at least part of said generated ~~fixed-length~~ sequence, said sequence thereby having ~~a~~ <u>said</u> morphological continuity.

2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein each of said items is represented by a series of constraint variables having a domain in the database.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said similarity-relation applying step comprises ~~modelling~~ modeling each of said descriptors in a desired sequence as a constrained variable.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said similarity-relation applying step comprises applying a global similarity relation technique by combining individual similarity measures on all of said descriptors.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said similarity-relation applying step comprises providing mathematical similarity functions.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said similarity-relation applying step comprises providing similarity relations defined by given thresholds.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Canceled)

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said descriptors are expressed in terms of descriptor/value pairs respectively, and each of said values for said descriptor is selected from descriptor/value lists.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein each of said descriptors is associated to a descriptor type.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 10, wherein said descriptor type comprises at least one type selected from the group consisting of Integer-Type, Taxonomy-Type and Discrete-Type.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of specifying ~~at least one of said values~~ further comprises specifying a first title and a last title of said items in said sequence.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claim 21~~ claim 1, wherein said step of specifying ~~at least one of said values~~ further comprises specifying a morphological style of said items in said sequence.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said database comprises musical pieces.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to ~~claim 21~~ claim 1, wherein said ~~values~~ descriptors comprise titles, and said titles form a music program.

16. (Original) A system adapted to implement the method of claim

1, comprising a general-purpose computer and a monitor for display of the generated information.

17. (Original) A computer program product adapted to carry out the method of claim 1, when loaded into a general purpose computer.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein in step b, the similarity relation is applied to obtain two contiguous items of the sequence.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a ~~fixed-length~~ sequence of items out of a database by specifying partial information, <u>said method</u> comprising the steps of:

[[-]] introducing a global continuity constraint allowing to compute a morphing between items of said sequence; ~~and~~

[[-]] taking as input partial information about arbitrary items in said sequence to be produced<u>; and</u>

<u>applying similarity relation techniques between said items appearing in said sequence, in which, for at least one item to appear in the sequence, said item is chosen from said database on the basis of a similarity relation with a neighboring item of said sequence with which said chosen item shall be associated, so as to create a morphological continuity along said sequence.</u>

20. (Previously Presented) A system adapted to implement the method of claim 19, comprising a general-purpose computer and a monitor for display of the generated information.

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21. (Currently Amended) A method of generating sequencing information representing a sequence of items selected in a database, each of the items comprising a set of descriptors, <u>said</u> <u>method</u> comprising the steps of:

[[a)]] specifying a length of said sequence and at least one of said descriptors;

[[b)]] applying similarity relation techniques between said items <u>appearing in said</u> <u>sequence</u>, in which, for at least one item to appear in the sequence, said item is chosen from said database on the basis of a similarity relation with ~~an~~ <u>a neighboring</u> item ~~in~~ <u>of</u> said sequence with which said chosen item shall be associated<u>, so as to create a morphological continuity along said</u> <u>sequence</u>; and

[[c)]] producing said associated items as at least part of said generated ~~fixed-length~~ sequence, said sequence thereby having ~~a~~ <u>said</u> morphological continuity,

wherein said descriptors are expressed in terms of descriptor/value pairs respectively, and each of said values for said descriptor is selected from descriptor/value lists.

22. (New) An apparatus for generating sequencing information representing a sequence of items selected in a database, each of the items comprising a set of descriptors, said apparatus comprising:

specifying means for specifying a length of said sequence and at least one of said descriptors;

applying means for applying similarity relation techniques between said items appearing in said sequence, in which, for at least one item to appear in the sequence, said item is chosen from said database on the basis of a similarity relation with a neighboring item of said sequence

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with which said chosen item shall be associated, so as to create a morphological continuity along said sequence; and

producing means for producing said associated items as at least part of said generated sequence, said sequence thereby having said morphological continuity.

23. (New) A method of generating sequencing information representing a sequence of items selected in a database, each of the items comprising a set of descriptors, said method comprising the steps of:

specifying at least a partial description of at least one said item to appear in said sequence;

applying similarity relation techniques between said items appearing in said sequence, in which, for at least one item to appear in the sequence, said item is chosen from said database on the basis of a similarity relation with a neighboring item of said sequence with which said chosen item shall be associated, so as to create a morphological continuity along said sequence; and

producing said associated items as at least part of said generated sequence, said sequence thereby having said morphological continuity.

24. (New) An apparatus for generating sequencing information representing a sequence of items selected in a database, each of the items comprising a set of descriptors, said apparatus comprising:

specifying means for specifying at least a partial description of at least one said item to appear in said sequence;

applying means for applying similarity relation techniques between said items appearing in said sequence, in which, for at least one item to appear in the sequence, said item is chosen from said database on the basis of a similarity relation with a neighboring item of said sequence with which said chosen item shall be associated, so as to create a morphological continuity along said sequence; and

producing means for producing said associated items as at least part of said generated sequence, said sequence thereby having said morphological continuity.

25. (New) The method according to claim 1,

wherein the items are music titles.

26. (New) The method according to claim 19,

wherein the items are music titles.

27. (New) The apparatus according to claim 22,

wherein the items are music titles.

28. (New) The method according to claim 23,

wherein the items are music titles.

29. (New) The apparatus according to claim 24,

wherein the items are music titles.

30. (New) A method of generating sequencing information representing a sequence of music titles selected in a database, each of the music titles comprising a set of descriptors, said method comprising the steps of:

specifying a length of said sequence and at least one of said descriptors;

applying similarity relation techniques between said music titles appearing in said sequence, in which, for at least one music title to appear in the sequence, said music title is chosen from said database on the basis of a similarity relation with a neighboring music title of said sequence with which said chosen music title shall be associated, so as to create a morphological continuity along said sequence; and

producing said associated music titles as at least part of said generated sequence, said sequence thereby having said morphological continuity.

31. (New) An apparatus for generating sequencing information representing a sequence of music titles selected in a database, each of the music titles comprising a set of descriptors, said apparatus comprising:

specifying means for specifying a length of said sequence and at least one of said descriptors;

applying means for applying similarity relation techniques between said music titles appearing in said sequence, in which, for at least one music title to appear in the sequence, said music title is chosen from said database on the basis of a similarity relation with a neighboring

music title of said sequence with which said chosen music title shall be associated, so as to create a morphological continuity along said sequence; and

producing means for producing said associated music titles as at least part of said generated sequence, said sequence thereby having said morphological continuity.

32. (New) The method according to claim 1,

wherein said morphological continuity is a morphing process along the items of said sequence.

33. (New) The method according to claim 19,

wherein said morphological continuity is a morphing process along the items of said sequence.

34. (New) The method according to claim 21,

wherein said morphological continuity is a morphing process along the items of said sequence.

35. (New) The apparatus according to claim 22,

wherein said morphological continuity is a morphing process along the items of said sequence.

36. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein said sequence-generating step comprises transforming said at least one of said values into unary constraints in terms of constraint satisfaction programming techniques.

37. (New) The method according to claim 36, wherein said sequence-generating step further comprises subjecting said unary constraints to a processing of variables domain reduction.